

LAMBDA

(Go vote on
March 20-21!)

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‘Cancer has no age group:’ the Heather Harris story

BY KAYLA PERRY

You may know Heather Harris as a Laurentian University arts student, who contributes to Sulphur and is in a long-term relationship with Eric Gloster. However, Harris is much more than that; she is a cancer survivor.

Last Feb. 6, Harris was diagnosed with Stage 2A Hodgkin's lymphoma, a cancer of the lymphatic system. This particular type of lymphoma can begin in almost any part of the body, and grows from one lymph node group to the next. The lymphoma will attack the immune system, and cause extreme itchiness among patients.

Harris's experience with Hodgkin's lymphoma began in the September 2011, when she noticed extreme itchiness and chest pain, while working out.

Shortly after this began, Harris felt the first lump of the lymph node on her collarbone, and had the first of many doctor's appointments two days later.

When the call came with the

results of the tests she had been taking, Harris was shocked.

"It was a complete surprise. My mom, who is a cancer nurse, knew about (my diagnosis) about a week before."

Once diagnosed, Harris began going to chemotherapy treatments bi-weekly.

Harris moved back to Hamilton to live with her mom, and received treatment at the Juravinski Cancer Centre where her mom worked.

After that week, Harris's life changed drastically. "I moved out of my room in Thorneloe residence and I began chemotherapy. I gained about 30 pounds, and my hair began to thin."

Harris also experienced what is known as chemo fog or chemo brain; "I would have trouble remembering things. During that time I would watch TV and I couldn't process what I was seeing. I would be on the phone and forget who I was talking to."

Throughout the year, Harris continued to take LU Envision courses as a way to pass the time at home. "I

would be so bored, out of my mind," said Harris, who was grateful that the courses kept her active.

When Harris began taking courses again last September, she explained that the professors were "extremely understanding" and that ironically, she was getting the best grades of her life.

Harris explained that throughout everything she experienced that year, not being able to graduate with her friends that spring was possibly the hardest experience of all.

"Seeing my peers graduating, and knowing I had worked so hard but I couldn't relish in that feeling was the worst day of my life," said Harris, who will be able to graduate with a B.A. of Arts this April.

Throughout the entire experience, Harris was able to maintain a long-distance relationship with her boyfriend, Eric Gloster.

Harris said it was hard to be separated from Gloster for so long, and that the two would spend weekends together whenever possible. "He is such a great boyfriend;

he was so supportive, and I'm glad he was with me on this journey."

The couple would be separated for the better part of eight months, and Gloster explained that while the year put a lot of pressure on the two, he's glad they were able to make it work: "In a situation like this, you start thinking more seriously. There were times where it was difficult, but we knew we wanted to stay together."

As of this April, Heather and Eric will have been together for two-and-a-half years.

Harris admitted that during the year, her perspective on life has changed a lot. Before being diagnosed and beginning the chemo treatments, Harris's life "was a bubble" in which she would focus mainly on school, she said.

"I didn't stop to smell the roses, but now I take the time," Harris said. "There is better things in life to do, and I know that I should enjoy my youth. Cancer gave me an appreciation for my life, and doing things outside of school – I wouldn't have gotten that experience any other way."

During February of this year (almost exactly a year from when she was diagnosed), Heather Harris was told she was officially in remission from cancer.

Upon hearing the news, Harris said she felt "so unbelievably good. I called Eric that day, and we were both so happy and excited. The nightmare was over."

Heather and her mother will be going to Las Vegas in celebration of the remission.

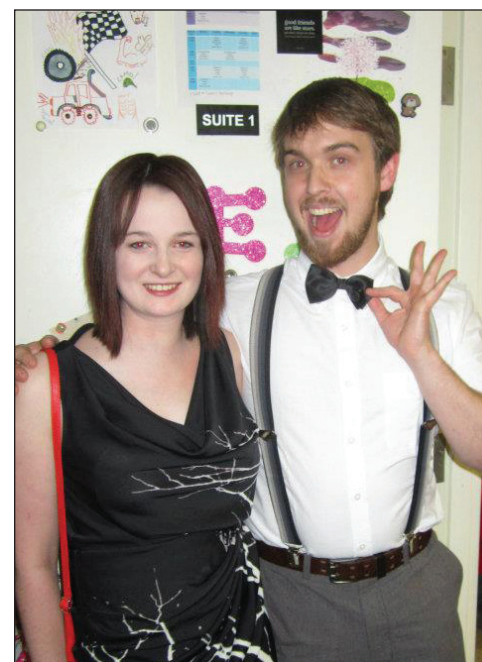
As the last year comes to a close, Harris would like more than anything for people to realize that "cancer has no age group. People need to get it out of their heads that cancer affects people that are either very old or very young – there is a middle group."

The soon-to-be graduate's plan for the future includes becoming a teacher and travelling wherever her career takes her, hopefully with Gloster by her side, she said.

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Photos supplied

Photos from left-to-right: Heather and her mother Debbie (on right); Heather with Eric Gloster (on left), her father Andy and her aunt Sandra; and Heather with boyfriend Eric Gloster.



SGA Elections: candidates in their own words

(continued on page 4)

President candidates:



Hey Laurentian! My name is Andy Rollins the current President of your Students' General Association, and I am seeking re-election for the 2013-2014 school year. Over the past year the Students' General Association has gone through big changes that have benefitted the student body in many ways. Last year I campaigned on being more accountable to our students and through this the SGA has grown greatly. This year the SGA was able to provide new programs that helped make the quality of life better at Laurentian; such as Food at Pub, the Healthy Living Initiative, and a Services realignment that welcomed Ontario Northland Bus Services and the Canada Post to the SGA. I also worked extremely hard to make sure that students were well represented when they had educational issues and needed help from the SGA. I do not want this progress to stop in the SGA. Now that I am familiar with how the school works I want to introduce more new initiatives that enhance the SGA and better our members quality of life at Laurentian. My experience and drive to help the student body will help me achieve this. Let's continue with progress. -Andy Rollins

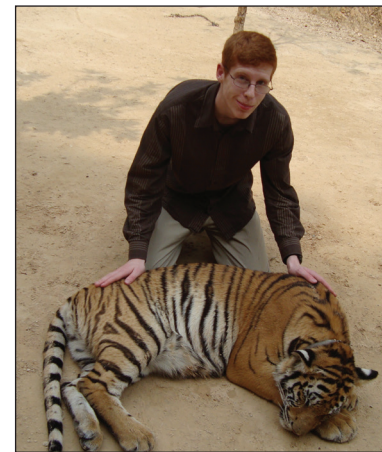


Kimberly Hempell has been an active member of the Laurentian University community for four years now. She is currently finishing her fourth year in the Bachelor of Social Work program. She is a hardworking, involved student who is always searching for new ways to become involved in the community. For the upcoming election Kimberly's main platform is to 'Save Students Money' by implementing different programs in order to better assist students versus having multiple programs that the students do not use or are aware of. Kimberly's knowledge of student issues allows her to address these needs as well as create awareness across the campus. Kimberly's other main goal is to begin to connect the off campus students with Laurentian as well as work with other clubs and associations to best utilize all student resources. As students you are paying for the SGA/AGE but do you have an idea what the SGA/AGE is doing for you? Vote for Kimberly Hempell for President for the upcoming 2013/2014 year and she will show you what the SGA/AGE is capable of. -Kimberly Hempell



Hello SGA members!
My name is McKenna, and I would like to be your next SGA President. I feel that I am the best candidate for this position because of the wealth of experience that I have gained over the past few years, and my passion for representing student voices. I'd like to tell you a few things about myself. I'm a fourth year Biology student here at Laurentian and a Bluecoat at Science North. I have a passion for science, politics, and the outdoors. It has been an honour to sit as a Senator representing our students and to serve this year as President of the Biology Society. I firmly believe that our students deserve to get their money's worth from their student union fees, that their money is spent wisely and to their full benefit. Students deserve to know how their money is spent. I believe in a transparent union, one that is accountable to students, and one that is responsible with finances. I know that if elected I can make this happen. I will work hard to ensure that your voice is fully heard and the Student's General Association is always open to you. - McKenna Rose Elsasser

VP Issues candidates:



The SGA/AGE is here for one thing: the students. As Vice-President of Student Issues I will focus on serving the students of this union and Laurentian University. One of the primary responsibilities of VP Issues is to raise awareness of issues affecting the student, but that is not enough. I will work not only to raise awareness, but to resolve these issues for the students.

Without good communication with the students I'm serving. This is why, when elected, I will hold regular, scheduled office hours. I make a promise to all students that I will work to help resolve any issue a student brings to me during these office hours. I will also hold the same policy to any e-mail I receive when elected. I also plan to work with the groups around school focused on specific issues to my full extent, to represent the students to the administration of Laurentian University, and to make sure the CFS works for the SGA/AGE again after a lull in recent years. Most importantly, I want to make the SGA/AGE a union all students feel is well worth their student fee. Come Election Day remember: 'You Won't Miss with a Vote for Chris' -Chris MacCullough



My name is Mark Mancini, and I am running for Vice President Issues. There are many, neglected issues that face students on the front lines every day, and we need experience to deal with them. I have been a Senator for the SGA, acted as President of the Laurentian University Political Science Association (where I helped to organize Model Parliament), and been a member of the LU Jazz Combo. My platform has three parts: First, I will focus on on-campus transit expansion. By investigating flat rates for students with taxi companies, among other initiatives, we can expand transit options for students. Second, I will work to expand the "LU Network"--- developing a cross-club advocacy council (involving organizations like Pride and the Womyn's Centre). Finally, I vow to stand up for departments that are feeling the stress of cuts. Many of these are in the arts, but there are many departments that are having trouble. I want to help them develop events and plans that will put them on the map at Laurentian, and I want the SGA to be a collective advocacy body for these departments. On voting day, remember, Mancini for VP Issues! -Mark Mancini

If you don't vote, you are part of the problem

LAMBDA STAFF

There are those who are apathetic to voting in any election, let alone a student election.

It's possible that some people just don't care about what happens to the communities around them; whether at Laurentian, or Sudbury, or even Ontario or Canada. If you find yourself in that category and you are enrolled to study at a university, I don't really know what to tell you. You're in an education of higher learning for the brightest in our society and by not taking an active interest in politics, you embarrass yourself and you shame the concept of an educational institute. OK, what's the big deal if you don't vote?

The big deal is that you are refusing to take an active interest in issues that will shape your university education (if you're returning next year), and the education of others.

You are essentially saying "here, take my money" to the SGA, and with no oversight.

You pay roughly \$400 to be a part of the student union, and you are willing to just walk away from that? Get your money's worth. Vote and be active in the organization.

Cry outrage when you don't agree with something and/or praise the decisions you do agree with. It's your right as a member of the union (the SGA). And, the first step in doing this, is to cast a vote on March 20 and 21.

Go out, meet some candidates, or vote for the ones who come to you if you agree with their vision (it's their job to sell themselves to you. That is politics).

Even if a student politician only makes one decision a year that actually interests you and compels you to feel anything, at least there is that. Most SGA policy may be dry or might sound like its meaning is purposely obscured, but the union serves an important function and shapes Laurentian for all its members.

With that out of the way, here are some thoughts on the election.

The president race is between incumbent Andy Rollins, McKenna Rose Elsasser and Kimberly Hempell.

Rollins clocked in with more than 400 votes last time, and he will hope to outcampaign his opponents again. If Rollins can get residence behind him (again), he will have a solid chance to stay in the office.

Elsasser has been involved with the SGA for a few years and has shown herself to be a strong-willed member of the SGA board and an enthusiastic event organizer. She can win if she can reach enough people.

Hempell is the enigma in this race (not in a negative sense). Newcomers are the embodiment of change, and if Hempell can convince people that she can bring change, she may find herself the next president.

The VP issues race is between Chris MacCullough and Mark Mancini.

MacCullough, currently an SGA senator, is running on the "people's candidate" platform, and if he can get enough ears to listen, he could be in the

office for next year. He will have to convince the population he can be their voice.

Mancini is well-known to the student population and is known for being approachable, paying attention to detail and holding the SGA accountable. Mancini is a strong campaigner and a people-person, and can win the job if that translates into votes.

The VP services race is between incumbent Iain Park and David Kvelashvili (DK).

Park is looking for his third term in office and has shown in the past that he can campaign with the best of 'em. He runs on an honest "you get what you see" platform, and has produced what he has promised over the years. He can win if he can motivate the Park army for another year.

DK is an interesting candidate, running on a platform of "what the students want." Among his promises is a student-voted frosh act, and more communication with students, as well as more funding for clubs. If DK can

outwork Park on the campaign trail and preach change, he can win the job.

In total, slightly more than 900 ballots were counted last year, accounting for roughly 17.9 per cent of the SGA population. Rollins accumulated the most votes with 460 last year. With room for error, depending on how many votes are cast, here are some predictions.

Based on similar numbers to last year, the winner in a two-candidate race will need somewhere around 400-plus votes. To win a three-candidate race, the winner will need at least 300.

Not everyone who votes does so in all categories. Some people only cast a ballot choosing people in certain positions, though this isn't common.

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SGA Elections: candidates in their own words

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VP Services candidates:

I am excited to be running for VP services. I think the university community needs a new approach to services, ranging from the type of parties and events the SGA put on to the fundamentals of helping students in need and advocating on behalf of our members. I work and go to school, and like all of us, I think things can be improved in our student government. I think it's critical that as a student government we are fiscally responsible, while still delivering the maximum we are able to. Our members deserve a SGA that listens to their issues, and works with new and creative solutions to fix the many problems we face. As a DJ I know all about delivering maximum party for minimum money, and this is the attitude I want to bring to the SGA. I am passionate about Laurentian, and think that there is something special about going to school in a place where its small enough to meet everyone, know your profs, and have an amazing and wide reaching campus experience. I feel fortunate that I am able to learn from and with such amazing people and look forward to a productive year. - David Kvelashvili



Hi guys,

I would love for you guys to have me back for a third year as Vice President Services. Together we saw the largest Laurentian University Frosh Concert in our 53 year history. Over 1900 people showed up to the country concert featuring CCMA New Comer of The Year Dean Brody. Generating 30 000 dollars, this money has been used to give more funding to on campus events: Suitcase Party, Dodgeball Tournament, among many others, and to aid in other SGA expenses. SGA expenses include increasing Club Funding by 150 dollars per club.

This year, though we will still have as many if not more events, I want to focus on restructuring. Part of this will include hiring 3 more paid part-time student positions within the SGA.

As you may know I have already started working on events for next year. Tentatively they are:

Jake Owen (Frosh – Country)

Krewella & Adventure Club (November – Electro)

Macklemore (Frost Week - January)

Rural Alberta Advantage & Timber Timbr (End of The Year - March)

Each show will be ALL AGES

There have been a lot of firsts with me in the role of VP Services, let us not make them last, let us make them last, together. -Iain Park



Senator candidates:

My name is Casey Lalonde and I am currently studying Psychology (neuroscience) at Laurentian. I previously studied Sociology for four years. I am seeking a position as an SGA senator in this upcoming election. My prior experience runs back several years, first as a commissioner then as VP of Issues for the SGA (in addition to general volunteer work). My goals for the SGA include improved governance and amendment of the constitution, bylaws and policies where need be. As for the senate committee, I would like to work with the university to implement creative solutions to many of the problems we face here at Laurentian. In addition, I will propose ideas I feel will be beneficial to both students and the University as a whole. I consider myself to be a creative problem solver and am excited to represent and work for Laurentian students in the upcoming 2013/2014 school year. -Casey Lalonde

As a third year Indigenous Social Work student with two years experience on the SGA board, I look forward to serving the academic needs of the student body as senator next year. I have had some very interesting opportunities while at Laurentian. This year I was honoured to lead a party at model parliament. I have been editor of the yearbook and senator for the Indigenous Students this past year. As senator I aim to address student concerns with the SGA board and Academic board. My education from my first degree in business and my college diploma in community development will enable me to understand a variety of student needs. - Caroyln Leblanc

Trevor Parsons – No Bio Submitted /no photo Submitted

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Three compete to represent students as SGA president

BY MATT RABEY

This year, the race for Students' General Association (SGA) president has three candidates vying for the top spot on the SGA executive: incumbent president Andy Rollins, current senator McKenna Rose Elsasser and Kimberly Hempell.

"I have the experience," stated Rollins. "I want to continue to represent the students and provide more services that the students could benefit from. Through my experience with the university I will make sure that the students remain a priority and push for new student space, because we

have outgrown the space that is provided currently, greatly."

Also vying for the top spot on the SGA executive are Elsasser and Hempell, both challenging Rollins to bring a new face to the SGA.

If elected, Elsasser plans to: "Collaborate with the faculty and administration on the Campus Modernization Plan and ensure that student voices are represented at the table. I'm positive that as students, faculty, and administration, we can work together to address the needs of the University and move forward in making this the best University possible."

Hempell said she would

make a good president because she is involved in the LU community.

"What makes me a good candidate is my involvement with the school," stated Hempell. "My willingness to advocate for the students. Through my four years in the Social Work program here at Laurentian we are constantly being reminded of how to best advocate for our clients. I believe that the student voice is going unheard and if voted in for president I hope to hear those voices."

Rollins is the one with the experience in this three-horse race, with his first term coming to a close.

He remains adamant that he can accomplish more in a second term, stating,

"This past year has been an extremely positive one for the Students' General Association. I want to continue the progress made this year and continue to provide a dedicated association to our membership."

The other two candidates are promising to bring change to the SGA. Elsasser is an advocate of "consistent and reliable office hours" and an "open door policy."

To accomplish this she has stated that the SGA should always be open between 9 to 3.

"I think the executive can work together and coordinate their schedules so the office doesn't have to be closed, either for the day or for lunch," she said.

If elected, Hempell is aiming to bring awareness to students.

"I am hoping to accomplish awareness," stated Hempell. "Awareness of fees and what we are paying for, awareness of what the SGA can do for the students. I also have a few ideas on how to best save the students money and hope to implement a few programs that other universities offer."

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Two candidates battle for VP Issues position

BY MATT RABEY

The Student's General Association (SGA) constitution states that the job of the Vice President of Issues is to "work with the president to propose the SGA's response for university and government services and policy, including, but not exclusive to, food services, tuition fees and international students to the SGA executive and SGA board."

This year, the race to fill this position is between former senator Mark Mancini and current senator Chris MacCullough.

"I feel that we need an experienced candidate to deal with the direct, front line issues that are facing students (and) that have been neglected," stated Mancini. "For too long, the student experience on the front lines has been deteriorating at Laurentian.

I am running to apply my experience to actually deal with these direct, on-campus issues."

The other candidate, Chris MacCullough, has students as his priority, stating: "As Vice-President of Student Issues I will focus on serving the students of this union and Laurentian University. One of the primary responsibilities of VP Issues is to raise awareness of issues affecting students, but that is not enough. I will work not only to raise awareness, but to resolve these issues for the students."

Both candidates have unique approaches for how they want to enact their student-themed policies.

Mancini has plans to change the transit at Laurentian University: "at other universities, for example, deals have been struck with cab companies to establish flat rates for students

going to and from the university."

Mancini also has plans "to co-organize events" between campus organizations like Pride and the Women's Centre.

Third, Mancini states: "I want to stand up for departments under the stress of cuts. Many of these are in the arts, but the effect is felt all over. I want the SGA to take a more active role in standing up for these departments, by advocating to the administration on the collective behalf of students in the departments."

MacCullough would like to see steady office hours for the SGA:

"I will hold regular, scheduled office hours," stated MacCullough. "I make a promise to all students that I will work to help resolve any issue a student brings to me during these office hours."

MacCullough has also stated that he

plans "to work with the groups around school" and "to represent the students to the administration of Laurentian University."

Both candidates have experience sitting on the school senate, but, as for which candidate will get experience next year as VP Issues, only the polls will tell.

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VP Services job attracts two candidates

BY KAYLA PERRY

The VP of Services job is one of three executive positions in the SGA, and on March 20 and 21, Laurentian students will be electing (or re-electing) someone to the job.

The VP of Services must (as it reads in the SGA Constitution) co-ordinate and chair the actions of the Services and Clubs Committees, co-ordinate the planning and organization of Frosh Week and SGA/AGE social events, assist clubs in their application for funding, and so on.

For the last two years, those duties have fallen under the authority of Iain Park. He is running for the position again this year, and said: "This past year was amazing for the SGA and our institution as a whole."

If Park is re-elected, he plans to restructure the constitution so that the SGA's "growing membership can be effectively served," create three more paying part-time positions for students within the SGA, and "continue to facilitate great events for the SGA."

During the past years in the

position, Park was responsible for organizing the Dean Brody frosh concert, beginning the sale of Red Bull in the Student Center, and the increase of club funding by \$150.

In regards to why he feels that he is a good fit for the position, Park said "I think I'm a good fit because I put the students before myself. Am I tired? You bet. But (the SGA) has grown and is doing a good job, and I won't leave now."

Park's competition this year is David Kvelashvili, a new up-and-comer to the SGA.

"I am running because I am here to make a difference," said Kvelshvili. "I want change, a positive change for the student body."

If elected, Kvelshvili plans to work with groups on campus such as LAMPS, AEF and GSA, to "ensure there is organized communication between everyone." Kvelshvili also plans to make sure clubs at LU receive the resources they need, involve the student body in event planning, and "re-establish a solid communicative relationship between clubs, students, the

administration, and within the SGA."

Kvelshvili believes he is a prime candidate for the position because he is sociable, works great with others, and above all else hopes to resolve issues that clubs have within the SGA.

"I know that many groups feel they're not connected with the SGA, and I want to make sure things are resolved."

The elections will be held on March 20 and 21, with advanced voting on March 18.

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SGA Elections: Meet the senate candidates

BY KAYLA PERRY

There are three candidates running for the position of senator this year: Casey Lalonde, Carolyn Leblanc, and Trevor Parsons. Coincidentally, there are also three senator positions on the board.

The job of SGA senator is (as stated in the SGA constitution) to represent the membership of the SGA at the university senate, present to the SGA board the upcoming and past business of the University Senate, prepare a written report on every committee they are required to sit on, promote and participate in the SGA activities and services, and more.

Each candidate has their own unique ideas they plan to implement, if elected.

For Lalonde, this idea resides in the school's process of exam-taking.

"If I can get one thing done next year, I want it to be for the university to stop writing exams in the gym, and to change the exam policy," said Lalonde, who continued to explain that the exam writing system at Laurentian "is ridiculous" and that while writing exams in the gym, a person's mind "is open to all kind of intrusive thoughts," accounting for lower grades.

Lalonde, who said she has previous experience working as commissioner in

her third year at LU, stated that she is also very knowledgeable about the SGA, and wants to have influence in the academic affairs within LU.

Parsons' main goal, if elected, will be to "improve efficiency of accessibility services."

Parsons stated he has suffered from mental health issues in the past, and therefore has had experience working with accessibility services; he believes "(the services) are inept, and need to be fixed."

Parsons previously served as the SGA Special Needs Commissioner, and said he hopes he will be elected this year.

Leblanc, who has previously served as senator for the indigenous students, says that, if elected she will "reinforce the principles that were put forward by the senators last year" and support the new up-and-coming Master's degree at LU.

Leblanc also stated that she will work to "ensure adequate information gets out to the students and help to deliver information about what is happening."

Given that there are the same number of candidates as are there are positions, the vote for senators will appear as a simple "yes or no" on election ballots.

Voting will be held on March 20 and 21 for all SGA students.

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Candidates debate issues in Great Hall

BY KAYLA PERRY

The first of the two SGA 2013 candidate debates was held on March 12.

The debates featured the candidates from all four available SGA positions, with the exception of Kimberly Hempbell, who was unable to attend due to an academic placement.

The debate featured an audience of less than 10 people, and was underway for more than two hours.

Candidates were given thirty seconds for the opening statements, and were then asked questions from either the moderator or from the crowd. Students asked questions such as "What is the first thing you will do if elected?" and "What can you offer that differs from your opponent?"

A topic that came up frequently in the debate was the issue of a new student centre.

The idea of a new student centre is one that has been tossed around campus during the elections; while the current student centre is able to hold 3,000 students, many students feel that the centre is outdated and not large enough.

While many students seemingly would like to see the building of a new student centre, where the funds would come from for implementing this project is unclear.

The first to comment on this topic were

the VP of Issues candidates.

"We are looking at having students pay for (the new student centre) over a long period of time," said Christopher MacCullough. "This would give students a lot more control, and (a) great benefit would be that students would have more control over the food services."

However, Mark Mancini, the second VP of Issues candidate, was more hesitant towards the topic.

"Obviously I think there is more work to be done on this," said Mancini. "Honestly, I think there are more discussions we need to have with the other student associations, and more discussions to be had with administrative officials."

For anyone who has questions for the candidates, there will be a final debate held on March 19 at 11:30 am in the Great Hall.

Elections will be held on March 20 and 21 for all SGA students.

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Pride Association hosts pride week of sex talks and events

BY LIANNA PISANI

The Pride Association held their annual Pride Week celebrations and events from March 4 to March 9, featuring at least one event per day.

The week was kicked off on Monday, March 4, with a healthy sexuality and same sex talk, an Access Aids Presentation given by Gaston Cotnoir in the morning, and a meet and greet dinner at Pat and Mario's restaurant in the evening. Though the morning talk was not very well-attended, Lee Benoit, the President of Pride LU, says 18 guests attended the dinner and helped get Pride Week started.

One of the better-attended events was the BDSM and bondage presentation and demonstration on Tuesday, Mar. 5. About 30 people attended the presentation, and Pride LU is considering holding a similar event again in the future.

"Someone I know recommended Nate Solomon. He actually did a conference in Chelmsford called

NOKC, which is Northern Ontario Kink Conference... He's experienced, and he was a good speaker," says Benoit. "It was very informative and everyone enjoyed it."

In Benoit's opinion, the BDSM presentation was the most-needed event for Pride Week, and she was glad that the presentation focused a lot on safety.

"I think a lot of young people are interested in it, but there is a lot of stigma attached to it. A lot of people don't know how to approach the subject or research to find out real answers. People were comfortable enough to ask questions [after the presentation], and received pamphlets and information," says Benoit.

After the audience was polled, Benoit learned that some students attended because they were interested in BDSM after reading the popular Fifty Shades of Grey novels.

Tuesday night, Pride LU held an event that was also a part of Pride

Week last year: Dirty Bingo at ZIGS. The event is well-known because of the sex toy prizes distributed throughout the night.

"On Wednesday, we had our annual bake sale. This year, since we are now a centre, we have a bit more funding. We were able to raise money and donate it all to charity," says Benoit. "The charity we chose was Rainbow Camp, a camp for LGBT youth."

Pride LU raised \$166 in cookies and cupcake sales for this Northern Ontario charity. They are also looking to get the executive members and other volunteers organized to donate some time to the charity this coming summer.

In a collaboration with the Women's Centre, Pride LU presented the climate survey results from the study done by LU professors Dr. Joël Dickinson and Dr. Jennifer Johnson in 2012, which are to be published soon and available on the Pride Facebook page for student access.

Thursday night featured a pub night, also in collaboration with the Women's Centre. Unfortunately, Friday's event of a snow play-day at Bell Park was the least successful event in terms of number of people in attendance.

"I'd like to keep some sort of fun activity like that," Benoit says, "but I think next year, we will hitch on with the Sports Association and go with the sport-related events they are planning because they are always really successful."

lambda@laurentian.ca





Photo by Matt Rabey

The panel discusses public science at the Science Unmuzzled event held at the Living With Lakes Centre.

Science Unmuzzled holds panel discussion on the state of public science

BY MATT RABEY

On March 8 the Biology Society broached this topic by having a panel of four experts give a talk at the Living with Lakes Centre, dealing with public scientists being restricted by the government.

One of its organizers, Mary Balsdon, a first-year Biomedical Biology major, said, "it is good to get out to the public what is actually happening. It is important because there are a lot of things that are unseen and that we don't know about and it is good to know what is really happening."

The panel, moderated by Franco Mariotti, included: Dr. John Gunn, Erik White, MP Glenn Thibeault and Dr. Dave Pearson.

The talk began with a special guest speaker, Dr. Albrecht Schulte-Hostedde telling a story of how as a scientist he was attacked

publicly by John Tory, a politician.

The story he told was how Tory had criticized the government for giving money to fund Hostedde's research, stating that it was a waste of public funds.

Hostedde was offended and fought back by using resources like the CBC and the television program The Hour, in an attempt to draw attention to the case.

Hostedde's research was allowed to continue and he said that the data he collected contributed valuable information regarding a bacteria found among squirrels that is dangerous to humans.

He closed by saying that the politician had not even looked at his research proposal, but was ready to prevent the research from going forward, which was not only harmful to him, but to

science.

The second speaker, Gunn, spoke of how things have changed for scientists in Canada and what has been lost.

He said that a large portion of science is conducted by the private sphere and not only is the information not as readily available as it used to be, but it is now biased by the profit-driven motives of industry.

He said science is for the public good and it isn't being made available to the public any more, something that has to stop.

The next speaker was journalist Erik White, from the CBC.

He spoke of how the access that was formerly granted to journalists to be able to talk to public scientists is being restricted and, in some cases, lost entirely.

He said journalists who are trying to get information

to the Canadian people are being prevented from gaining access to what should be public science.

The third speaker for the event was Glenn Thibeault, the MP for Sudbury.

He spoke of how the Harper Government has cut back on science spending and instead they spend money on things like a \$64-million advertising budget.

Thibeault said this is not in the public's best interest as things like the e-coli outbreak in Alberta are caused by these cutbacks to the scientists that would have been monitoring the meat.

He closed with a story that had many in the audience shaking their heads.

He said that he heard Canada's minister of science and technology say that he does not believe in statistics.

The final speaker for the night was Dr. Dave Pearson.

Pearson told the audience that the Harper Government's cutbacks in the field of science would have disastrous results.

He spoke of how the last time the government decided to push science aside the Grand Banks cod fisheries collapsed and a sustainable national resource was lost.

Pearson said that in the United States the Obama administration is listening to their scientists instead of ignoring them and as Canadians, that is the direction we must head or more resources would be lost.

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Fashion: How many layers are too many?

BY LIANNA PISANI

Name: Erik Merentsov
Program: Biomedical Biology
Year: 1

The answer to that question, friends, is no amount of layers is ever too many– not even when it is 25 degrees outside. Add on a chiffon blouse, or sleeveless vests, and layer on!

Erik Merentsov, a first-year student, shows his off layering skills using a classic combination of the graphic tee, and denim. Dark denim jeans are a great way to begin the layering process because they are a fairly basic canvas which accommodates a slew of hues and styles. Like a true pro, Merentsov says he usually chooses his shoes and jeans first to start of any outfit, from the bottom up.

The importance of great denim is something Merentsov knows well: “I think

that all guys need a stylish pair of jeans, a plain white t-shirt– can never go wrong, a casual dress shirt and a nice pair of shoes.”

Merentsov pairs his own denim, as he recommends, with a white tee to start, but he gets a little creative and chooses a graphic tee. The print is a smart choice when it comes to layering, as the tee features cool shades of blacks and greys.

“The laid back style is what works,” says Merentsov. “Zayn Malik has the same style that I like with graphic tees and lot of layering, while Chris brown has more of the urban style with high top trainers and baggy clothing. They both know how to dress the right way in order to stand out enough in a crowd but not look like they are trying really hard,” he says, speaking of his two style icons.

Merentsov’s style inspiration is pretty clear in his two final layers: a classic, tiny gingham button-down and a denim vest, two shades darker than his jeans. While Merentsov makes it look effortless, layering

is a sartorial art, and takes a lot of skill. There needs to be a balance between hues, styles, and materials.

“Layering is one of my more favorite things to do, from layering jean vests to layering different sweaters and long sleeve shirts. I feel like layering works best if each piece complements the other. In this outfit the shirt stood out because of its light color. The jean vest complemented the full outfit and the dress shirt helped the jean vest stand out from my actual jeans while being a good barrier between my t-shirt and the jean vest,” Merentsov explains, proving his mastery in the art of layering.

As Merentsov is originally from Ukraine, there is certainly a hint of European trend within his outfit, and his lack of the more commonly North American fear of accessorizing is apparent in his masculine jewelry.

“Jewelry is usually a female accessory

but if you know how to properly accent your outfit then it’s fine. Earrings are always something easy to make an outfit complete. I always like to have a watch on... Small bands around the wrist are always something that I like to add to an outfit. Necklaces like dog tags or crosses are also an easy addition to an outfit without making it too feminine,” Merentsov says.

The thick watch, black metallic bracelets and thin, silver-chained necklaces are anything but feminine on Merentsov, and contribute to his “bad boy” style. Jewelry can be considered risky when it comes to masculine style, but Merentsov is certainly not afraid of taking risks. If this outfit was a risk, he has absolutely nothing to worry about.

Photos by Lianna Pisani

Erik Merentsov poses in the student centre at Laurentian University.



Hoi Cheu is the Beast



LAMBDA STAFF

In the realm of professors, Hoi Cheu separates himself from the pack.

The English professor allows his students impressive levels of creative freedom, encourages independent thought and treats them with respect – always making time for them and allowing them to call him at home.

The Beast, of X-Men fame, makes a perfect comparable.

Henry 'Hank' McCoy (the Beast's real name) is as likely to quote Shakespeare as to pounce on his enemies with ferocious strength, brilliant agility and lightning-fast speed.

McCoy's teammates constantly rely on him for his leadership, intelligence and strength in

battle.

Professor Cheu consistently encourages his students and helps them achieve success, though he may not possess the Beast's superhuman strength level (that we know of).

Cheu's lecturing style is different, in the right kind of way, allowing students to better remember lessons and understand complex subjects.

For all we know, Cheu spends his nights conversing with the likes of Wolverine and Storm while saving the world from the iron grip of the likes of Magneto and Sabretooth.

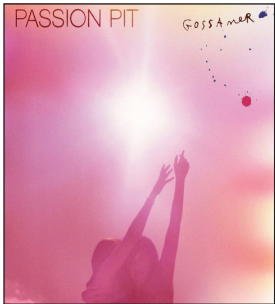
Illustrations provided by Marvel Comics

Warpath has been in-and-out of major Marveldom in his many years as a character, but he is one of the fiercest heroes in comics.



Lambda recommends...

Kayla Perry - Staff writer



Passion Pit

Take A Walk



The Neighbourhood

Sweater Weather



Imagine Dragons

Radioactive

Ron Guillet - Editor



As Tall As Lions

Lost My Mind



Forgive Durden

The Missing Piece



The Dear Hunter

An Escape

Casey Stranges - General Manager



Daniel Lanois

This May Be the Last Time



Jools Holland and his R&B Orchestra

Able Mabel



Ziggy Marley & Jack Johnson

Cry, Cry, Cry

Lianna Pisani - Staff writer



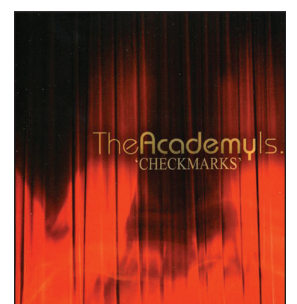
Lyndon's Frozen Lake

Watch The Weeds



A Rocket To The Moon

Ever Enough



The Academy Is...

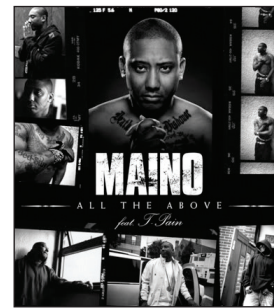
Down And Out

Ed Veilleux - News Editor



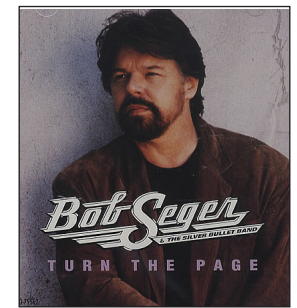
Kendrick Lamar

The Art of Peer Pressure



Maino Ft. T-Pain

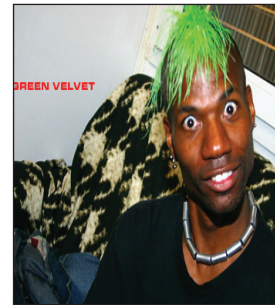
All The Above



Bob Seger

Turn The Page

Matt Rabey - Staff writer



Green Velvet

lalalalala



DJ Misjah

What Is



Fedde Le Grand

Control Room

Schweinbenz: Zeeman 'will be an Olympian'



Photo supplied

Carling Zeeman will compete in the World Cup from Mar. 22 to 24.

BY RON GUILLET

Rowing Canada Aviron officially announced the team that will compete in the first World Cup at the Sydney International Regatta Centre in Penrith from Mar. 22 to 24, and Laurentian's Carling Zeeman made the trip.

It's the second major international competition for Zeeman, who picked up a bronze medal in the World Rowing Under 23 Championships last summer in Trakai, Lithuania. She will be alongside, but not racing with, Olympic medalist Lesley Thompson, who won five medals in her Olympic career.

"She's getting international race exposure and she's getting to race with some incredible people," said Laurentian's rowing coach Amanda Schweinbenz.

Schweinbenz said the opportunity to learn from the Canadian women's team, which boasts four 2012 Olympic medalists, should help Zeeman improve as a rower.

"She's going to develop because

she's racing with a group of women who are more experienced," said Schweinbenz. "Carling's been rowing for four years, so they're going to be bringing a wealth of knowledge that she wouldn't have access to."

Zeeman is in her last year with Laurentian and, besides representing the University as one of the top rowers in the country, has always ensured the team comes first.

"Sometimes you see elite athletes just focus on themselves but she's not like that at all," said Schweinbenz. "She wants everyone to succeed around her and she wants to help everyone on her team do the best they can possibly do. She'll even come to training sessions, while she's off, and encourage them and push them. She loves to see the Voyageurs succeed. She loves to see the basketball team win; loves to see the soccer team win."

Schweinbenz said the experience Zeeman gained at the World Rowing Championships

and the development camp in Welland over the summers have helped her become a leader, as the team has forged a bond both on and off the water.

"She leads by example and shows everyone just how hard she can work and encourages everyone to work hard," said Schweinbenz. "They run their own training sessions on Saturday where they go running or play games and have a great time. She really fosters that with the team."

Schweinbenz has "no doubt" that Zeeman will compete in the 2016 Olympic games if she maintains her current work ethic.

"She will be an Olympian," said Schweinbenz. "I'm not concerned about that. Whatever medal she wins in the future, there's that. But it's more than that. I think on our team she's leaving a legacy of excellence, both on and off the water. It's a legacy of support and community."

Opinion: Sports are more than just a game

BY RON GUILLET

When you boil it down, life is all about emotions.

It's why we grumpily roll out of bed in the morning and hit the pillow at night. Emotions provide our lives with meaning and define our humanity. Human beings endure an endless cycle of failure, but it's essential to growing as an individual and learning from the mistakes.

Perhaps that's a little hokey but it's also, I think, harmonious. You're probably wondering why I'm preaching about life and how the hell it correlates with sports. Well, let's clear up what sports probably can't do.

Sports may not be able to cure disease, end poverty or cease wars. Why, then, are sports more

than just a needless game of entertainment and escapism? For one, it provides countless children with a cultural background which fosters discipline and hard work. Even if you're not an athlete, there's a culture to be experienced among leagues, fan bases and sports fans alike. I've made good friends through the Internet as well as locally through sports, and it's because of that shared passion we are who we are.

You can catch me yelling at my television screen at least three times a week. You might ask why I get so upset about someone whiffing on a clear chance or making an ill-timed pass. In the end it doesn't really matter, but it's a personal experience and it provides an emotional charge that

is invigorating. The emotional moments in life are the most memorable. They force us to explore our psyche in a way that isn't always possible in day-to-day life. And if there's anything that can make a grown man cry and express an eclectic range of emotions, it is sports. Anything that requires passion can't be meaningless.

The desire to win is at the core of any sport. It's why fans fork over endless amounts of cash and question every decision of their favourite team. Hell, as a Toronto Maple Leafs fan I can attest to the many lows one can experience because of a sports team. But it's part of the fun. When you step back and take it all in it can be an immersive experience.

We are all exposed to highs and lows in life. One moment we're up in an ivory tower and the next we're in the gutter. But, those moments can provide perspective on the fragility and precariousness of life. And who doesn't enjoy that uplifting moment when you realize the sun rises and maybe you even learned an important lesson?

From the moment we don the sports jersey of our favourite team we invest hope in the idea of attaining the ultimate goal, which is winning. It's what we all strive for as human beings; to be successful and evoke a winning attitude. That sort of achievement, though, doesn't come easily. It takes hard work, maturity and a willingness to learn. There aren't many stories worth telling that don't involve

some form of adversity or downfall before prosperity. It defines us as human beings and comforts us knowing we can learn from our failures.

This is why sports fans put athletes up on pedestals and stitch their names on jerseys to wear proudly. At the end of the day, sports are a microcosm of what gives life meaning. Every action you take in life is fueled by some sort of meaning. We are defined by emotions and it is in those moments we express our psyche.

Once we reach the end of the road, we will remember the moments fueled by emotion. It's what makes it all worthwhile.

Galloway embodies potential of LU wrestling

BY RON GUILLET

Since its inception two years ago, Laurentian's wrestling program has hit the mat with potential.

Dylan Galloway is in his second year in the program, and has finished fourth and fifth in two OUA Championships thus far. He has also placed second at the juvenile (U-18) provincial championships and national championships, respectively.

Galloway is 19 years old and enrolled in Behavioral Neuroscience with three years remaining at the University. Considering his list of accomplishments in wrestling with only five years of experience, three years provides him, and the program, plenty of time to reach new heights.

It all started for Galloway back when he attended Lockerby Composite as a freshman. His impulse decision to join the wrestling program ultimately had him cross paths with his future and present coach, Andy Lalonde.

"A bunch of my friends were doing it, so I decided to try it out as well," Galloway recalled. "I ended up enjoying it and joined the Rayside Wrestling Club where Andy was coaching."

Since then, Galloway developed

an appreciation and unbridled enthusiasm for the sport.

"I would consider it a passion for sure," Galloway said. "I really enjoy how challenging wrestling is. Getting beat up in practice is tough, but I enjoy working hard and seeing improvements all the time. It's an individual sport so success and failure is on your shoulders and nobody else's."

Galloway has his sights locked on nationals, hoping to bring home some silverware before he enters the proceeding age group.

"My aspirations are always for nationals," Galloway said. "This year I hope to medal at junior nationals, as it is my last year before I am considered a senior."

Galloway likes to aim high as well and his goals aren't limited to the short-term.

"Being the first wrestler from LU to win a CIS gold medal would be amazing, and that is definitely one of my top goals in the coming years," Galloway said.

Galloway said the wrestling program at Laurentian has been crucial in his development and the teams continue to improve as the program matures.

"The team is still growing, so it's just going to get better with time," Galloway said. "We already have a bunch of guys and girls who are

committed and practicing hard. The program is doing a great job of developing me as a wrestler, and I am really looking forward to the next few years."

According to Galloway, Lalonde has been a key part of that development, as he convinced the young wrestler to remain in Sudbury and help develop the program.

"Andy has helped me develop throughout my whole wrestling career," Galloway said. "He has shown me almost everything I know about the sport. I have tons of respect for him; he's an exceptional coach and the reason why I stayed in Sudbury to attend Laurentian."

Galloway tried to recall his favourite moments out on the mat, but the competitive nature of the sport ultimately remains his driving force.

"I have too many to name them all, but the most memorable moments are always the tough, close matches," Galloway said. "There's nothing better than being in a close match and earning a hard-fought win."

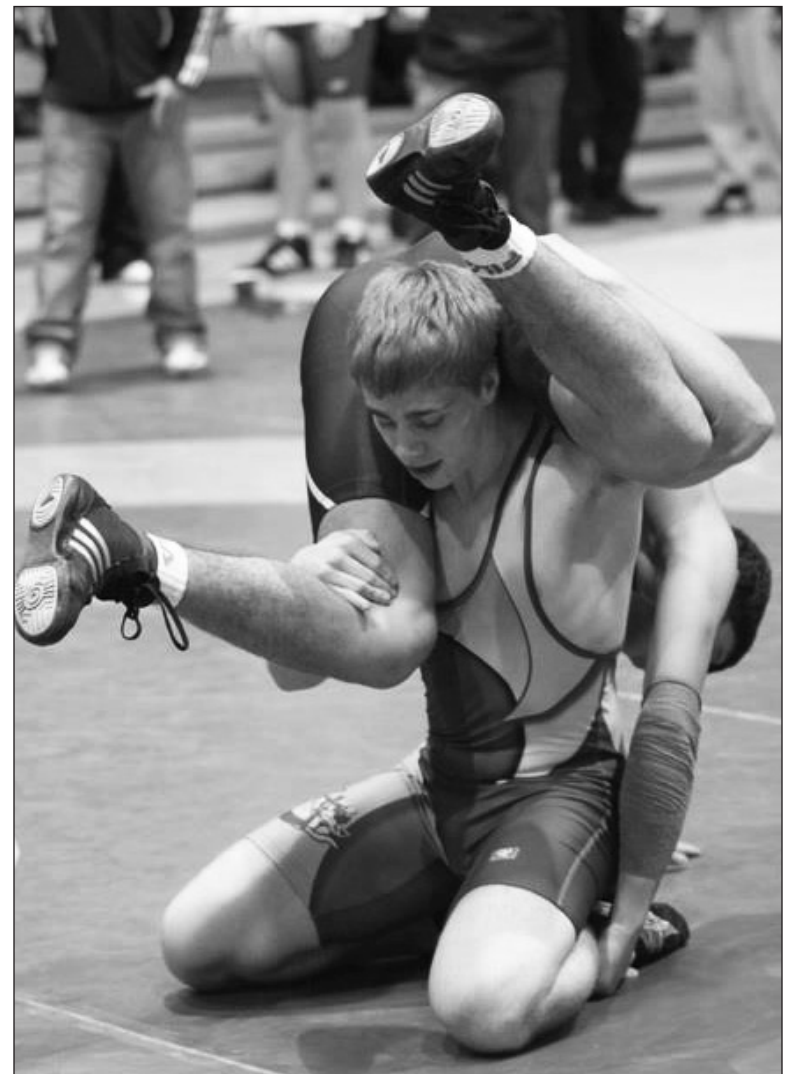


Photo supplied

Laurentian wrestler Dylan Galloway grapples an opponent.

Homophobia in the locker room

SACKVILLE (CUP) — Competing on the ice, field, or hard court is supposed to serve as a medium in which humans can be careless, free and at peace. For gay athletes, it can feel more like a prison.

To any athlete, nothing is more important when they compete than getting the win and basking in glory. For decades though, gay athletes have been held back by what You Can Play co-founder Brian Kitts calls "casual homophobia." After campaigns to rid the locker room of racist and sexist behavior, homophobia has been thrust in the spotlight as the next target.

The campaign to end homophobia in the locker room has been a hot-button issue in locker rooms, from the big leagues to local arenas, for a significant

portion of the last half-century. "We can't do it, they have to," commented Kitts in reference to how the project can have a realistic impact in the locker room.

You Can Play was co-founded by Kitts, Patrick Burke and Glenn Witman back in March 2012 as a tribute to Patrick's brother Brendan, who came out in November 2009 and worked to eradicate homophobia in professional sports before he died in a car crash in February 2010. At the time, Brendan was the student-manager at Miami University for the men's hockey team.

Despite the gains made in recent years through athletes, executives, journalists, and teams coming together, one Mount Allison athlete still thinks that total acceptance of gay athletes is unbalanced.

"I think that in general it's more accepted among women to have gay teammates than men," the athlete, who wished to remain anonymous, answered.

According to another Mt. A athlete homophobia should not be tolerated in sport. "We're all the same. Nobody should be judged or made fun of because of their sexual preference," said fourth-year hockey forward Chelsea King.

The campaign to end homophobia in the locker room faces some roadblocks. Locker room decisions and the events that transpire in them are usually restricted to athletes and team personnel. This puts the majority of the decisions on the shoulders of athletes and the team to take a stand.

"Humans by nature value fairness," said Kitts. "It's a matter

of giving them the opportunity to get on board with this."

Since their founding almost a year ago, You Can Play has joined forces with several prominent schools, teams, and athletes, all pledging to take a stand to end homophobia. St. Thomas University Tommies, the University of New Brunswick Varsity Reds, University of Ottawa GeeGee's, and the Ontario Intercollegiate Fastpitch Association have all made the stand at the university sport level in Canada.

However, the battle is still a long way from being over. Kitts noted the importance of not only forming an alliance of gay athletes but straight athletes as well.

"We're going to grow out of [casual homophobia]," he commented.

Much like the way of racism

and sexism, Kitts is hoping homophobia suffers the same fate, though he admitted change will not come overnight. He referred to several decades ago when it would have been considered acceptable to some degree to use derogatory language towards athletes of different races or gender.

Those times have come and gone now, and Kitts is firmly focused on placing homophobia in the same category. For now he and his team work day in and day out to ensure that athletic ability is the only determining factor for success in sports, from the bright lights of the world's biggest athletic events to minor hockey game at the local arena.

Rabey's round-up: Predicting the Champions of Europe

BY MATT RABEY

With the English, German, Spanish, Italian and Scottish top leagues practically already decided, the league with the most left to offer for unpredictability is for the continent.

The Champion's League is quarterfinal stage already, but it is anyone's guess which team will take home the title.

Prior to the game against Arsenal at the Allianz Arena I would have said that Bayern Munich were the favourites to take the title, but now things aren't so clear.

FC Bayern topped a group that was not particularly tough, save Valencia, but Bayern's home form this year has been exceptional.

The home defeat against Arsenal, however, shows that Bayern are far from invincible on the European stage.

The normal attacking flare and domination was nonexistent for the Bavarians, who were second

best to determination and a team not know for its defence.

With tougher tests to follow, Bayern don't seem to have what it takes this year to take the European crown.

The next obvious contender is the Catalan giant FC Barcelona.

Barcelona is also running away with their domestic league this year, but there have been a few slip-ups in their bid to capture continental glory.

The memorable victory for Celtic in Scotland is still a recent memory, but even more pertinent loss for Barcelona is the 2 nil defeat to AC Milan at the San Siro.

Barcelona did come back to win the second league in style, but Barcelona can't always hope that a team will only be able to keep Messi quite in one league or be unable to in the final.

Barcelona are brilliant when Messi is in top form, but when he isn't there have been hiccups to suggest that Barcelona don't have

what it takes to go all the way this year.

This brings me to the team that does have what it takes to go the distance, defending German champions Borussia Dortmund.

Many have largely overlooked Dortmund as serious contenders this season as they have not been Champion's League contenders in recent years.

This year, however, they have already defeated the defending champions of England, Spain, Holland and the Ukraine.

They have already been knocked out of their domestic cup and the Bundesliga is almost certainly going to Munich, so the Champion's League is where their focus lies.

Dortmund also posses the attacking prowess of Mario Götze, Robert Lewandowski and Marco Reus and a solid central defense in the form of Neven Subotic and Mats Hummels.

There form in continental



football has been the most consistent of any of the large clubs as they are the only competitor left in the league who has not suffered a defeat.

They have endured the toughest

campaign thus far out of any of the remaining clubs and prevailed.

If they can retain the form and belief that have carried them thus far expect the trophy to be hoisted by the black and yellow this May.

Intramurals: Winner of Your Success Story

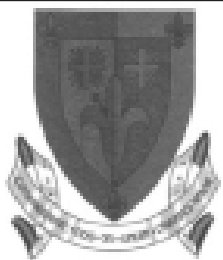
BY SHAUNA DONALDSON

This is the year Voyageur Recreation and Campus wanted to reach out to all students at Laurentian University. By doing this they added a new contest called Your Success Story. Congratulations to Kyra Luckasavitch who is the winner of Your Success Story.

Here is Kyra's story "Laurentian intramurals rocks. I have participated ever since my first year at Laurentian. I was able to meet many people from the Laurentian community from all years and programs. Walking across campus and being able to say 'Hi' to many people along the way is such a

great feeling. The Ben Avery Gymnasium where most intramurals take place is like my home away from home. After playing sports in high school almost every night you miss that when you come away to university but not when you are able to play intramurals. It's a fun way to stay active and the program

is student run. It helps to have students run the events as they can relate and makes the intramurals at Laurentian a great and unforgettable experience."



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Email: csjssmvoen@ontera.net

Climate survey shows that LGBT students may be uncomfortable on campus

BY LIANNA PISANI

Last April, after the 2011-12 academic school year, Psychology professor Dr. Joël Dickinson, and Women's Studies professor Dr. Jennifer Johnson, created and distributed a Sexuality and Gender Diversity Climate Survey to determine the atmosphere of the Laurentian campus in terms of the acceptance and treatment of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community.

The survey was sent out to all LU email addresses, and researchers received 438 completed surveys—a number on the small side in comparison to LU's population as a whole.

Lee Benoit, the President of Pride LU, helped organize an event during Pride Week, with the Women's Association, where the survey results were presented. Benoit explains that individuals were asked about demographic information, sexuality and/or gender, homophobia and transphobia, university climate, curriculum and whether LGBT subjects were introduced or mentioned in curriculum, and visibility—whether or not LGBT students have a visibility on campus.

The survey contained both multiple choice and open questions which allowed respondents to comment. Results of the survey can be summed up into the following statistics:

20 per cent of LGBT respondents reported being uncomfortable due to their sexuality

12 per cent of LGBT respondents reported being uncomfortable due to their

gender expression

17 per cent of LGBT respondents reported as being “out” on campus

18 per cent of LGBT respondents reported verbal harassment due to their sexuality

16 per cent of LGBT respondents reported verbal harassment due to their gender

75 per cent of respondents were not aware of the policy for reporting incidences of homophobia

10 per cent of LGBT respondents said they don't have a single person on campus they can talk to

21 per cent of respondents would be uncomfortable talking to a professor about LGBT issues

20 per cent of LGBT students live on campus residence

8 per cent felt uncomfortable because of sexual orientation or gender identity

Within the comments, one respondent reported that they were made uncomfortable when a professor mocked trans individuals and the entire class laughed. Also within the comments, researchers noted that an individual suggested throwing LGBT individuals in an oven to burn, and another commented, “act like everyone else, and you'll be treated like everyone else.”

Benoit comments that, “in the SGA referendum last year, only a little over half of the students voted for it. That means that only a little over half think we should have the same funding to become a Centre.”

Benoit comments, “I haven't experienced any negativity, luckily, however, I think

people might be more accepting of lesbians than gay men... and not everyone I meet knows that I'm gay when I'm walking down the street. Perhaps if it were written on me, they may treat me differently.”

Another LU student, Kent Anderson, says that he has “never personally experienced or witnessed anything negative in regards to the LGBT community on campus, but... never experienced anything exceptionally positive either.”

As an openly gay student, Anderson says that his friends are all very accepting, though the LU community as a whole is more neutral. He says, “I'd love to say that Laurentian is extremely welcoming, but from personal experience, I'd say they are more neutral. The students seem rather progressive in acceptance... The campus itself is less accepting,” and notes that LU offers little in terms of supporting the LGBT community.

Heather Harris is a student who has also only had positive experiences personally on campus, but has witnessed what can be considered negative expressions toward the LGBT community at LU.

“I have heard comments around campus like using ‘gay’ as a derogatory term and recently on U Mentioned a male made a comment about ‘fag hags,’” says Harris. “I remember in one of my hands-on classes, someone didn't want to partner with a gay student because they felt uncomfortable with the activity with the gay student. This was last year. Overall it makes me disappointed about student life.”

Three other students interviewed

agreed that they don't focus on the sexual orientation of others, and have never witnessed anything negative in that regard on campus.

Emmett Turkington, a Humanities student, says that he thinks most heterosexual students don't notice the LGBT community on campus, or pay attention to how individuals are treated, though he feels personally connected to the LGBT community and has never directly seen any discriminatory action taken against anyone.

“That being said, I understand that some students tend to overemphasize their heterosexuality which can ultimately come across as a form of intolerance for sexual orientation,” says Turkington. “People are homophobic is basically what it boils down to. It's almost as if they don't know how to react to anything that's different from themselves.”

The question Dickinson, Johnson and Benoit are facing now is how to increase the comfort and acceptance across campus. Some of the suggestions being made include hiring counselors specifically for LGBT students, or implementing training for staff and faculty on how to deal with incidents and prevent them in the classroom.

All results of the survey are potentially to be released on April 14, 2013. Incidences on campus can be reported to the Human Rights office.

Laurentian hosts Aboriginal Awareness Week

BY WILLIE POLL

Laurentian University hosted Aboriginal Awareness Week this year from Mar. 4 to 8.

Laurentian honoured the week with a series of events including drum teachings, making tie blankets, showing, a snowshoe excursion, Inuit games and more. To many aboriginal and non-aboriginal people, aboriginal awareness week can mean different things, including the resurgence of first nations peoples, the contemporary issues they face such as the idle no more movement and the historical past they've had with colonization

and Canada.

“I look at Aboriginal Awareness Week as a way to honour First Nations cultures in Canada, remind us of the history we share and further educate ourselves about the bonds we need to strengthen so that all the Nations in Canada can be strong allies,” Alex Hayes, a student in the Indigenous Studies program, said. “Laurentian and the University of Sudbury offered some great experiences for people interested in being a part of Aboriginal Awareness Week. It was great to see students, teachers and volunteers honoring

the Anishinabek territory we are living on and I think offering activities and panel discussions that are open for everyone to participate in is a great way to start spreading awareness. I'm happy being a University of Sudbury student because events like the ones offered for Aboriginal Awareness Week keep happening throughout the year and not just the one time slot.”

Aboriginal Awareness Week is a way to showcase the culture and spread the word about aboriginal awareness, but many students feel that one week is not enough to do this and that awareness should be

spread year round.

“I think it's a week to honour the Aboriginal culture and it recognizes our achievements,” Stephanie Gauthier, an aboriginal student, said. “I don't think enough people know about the culture, and we have so much to share. I think it's great that Laurentian is trying to spread aboriginal awareness, but I don't think Laurentian does enough events such as these. The University of Sudbury has aboriginal related events but the majority of Laurentian doesn't hear about them and a lot of students have never even been to

the University of Sudbury and wouldn't know where to look for event postings. It just recently picked up this year, I hardly heard of any last year. I feel the advertising still lacks, but the improvement from last year to this year is huge.”

Ontario invests \$245,500 in LU forensic DNA lab

BY RYEN VELHUIS

For third-year forensic science student, Andrea Mendler, she knew since the first time she saw an episode of CSI what she wanted to study in her current program.

"I knew immediately that I belonged in a forensic lab doing something, anything, to help solve crimes, even after I found out that DNA results take much longer than just a commercial break," she said.

Soon her childhood hopes will come true. On Mar. 11, Sudbury MPP Rick Bartolucci made an announcement that the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC) would be investing \$245,000 for the development of a forensic DNA laboratory at Laurentian.

"Many students including myself never necessarily thought about a career in forensic

DNA analysis, because it wasn't possible to get hands on experiences, but now we can," said Mendler.

Not only will this lab be an advancement for Laurentian with its expansion of educational programs, but "we are going to have an impact on the world of DNA," said Bartolucci.

The students, according to Bartolucci, will be working with many outside Laurentian, to enhance their experiences; this includes working on actual police cases.

"I'm very, very excited about Laurentian University moving off another new endeavour that has international appeal. There will be partnerships formed, no doubt, with the Ontario police college, the Canadian police college and there will be international opportunities for

this particular lab to show its incredible, incredible importance to the study and the resolution of many, many different crimes that it will be a part of," said Bartolucci. "There is absolutely no question that this will be very, very beneficial to police services not only in Sudbury, but across Northern Ontario."

In addition to the forensics lab, the funding has allowed for the hiring of forensic DNA expert, Michelle Bobyn. Previously, she worked at the Colorado Bureau of Investigation.

Most of the funding will be going to renovating existing lab space while a portion will be going to equipment.

One of the original three original forensic science professors, Dr. Brian Donohue, described the "nature" of the project

being the primary influence for seeking the funding.

"We realized, because of the nature of the project, our traditional sources of funding wouldn't be appropriate because they're research based and this is technology as much as research," he said.

This lab will differ from typical university labs that are more research based, because it will be meeting forensic standards, like quality control.

The forensic science department plans on continuing to search for additional funding. "Science never stops," said Donohue.

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Cortical Column: The role of the cerebellum

BY LUCAS TESSARO

When considering the brain as a unit, there is always this other piece that just kind of sits there, behind the rest of the cortex, hanging off like a barnacle of a whale – the cerebellum. While smaller than the neocortex in volume (the outermost layer of the brain) it actually comprises 3.6x as many neurons, a ratio which is conserved across many different mammalian species. But what does it do?

Putting it bluntly, the cerebellum has a major role in the coordination of all motor functions, but especially highly complex and repetitive motor movements. Its role extends into a learning component associated with these movements. Almost any action we take which requires hand-eye coordination, the cerebellum plays a role in. It also has numerous connections with regions of the brain associated with balance, and a number of sensory inputs to control unconscious reflexive movements.

One of the best examples of how the cerebellum adjusts our fine movements is in activities in sports, music, or even manipulating fine tools in the sciences. Think about it – how much effort do you put into deciding how much power to put into kicking a ball in soccer (not free kicks), or in the stick during a hockey game?

Looking back on it now, you might try to justify how you decided, but during the game it was relatively

automatic. Your cerebellum and cortex worked in tandem to bring up past experiences similar to the one you were in, and the cerebellum basically told you how much effort to put in to repeat that past experience. This is really quite a simplistic view of the cerebellum, but I think the concept is fairly obvious.

There are two really distinguishing features of the cerebellum. First, if you were to cut into it you would see almost a tree-like design in the tissue. This ‘arborisation’ is representative of the vast number of cells compacted into this relatively small volume, and indicates just how many connections are required for all these fine-motor movements we don’t really need to think about anymore.

Second, going even more microscopic, we notice a specialized neuron-type only located here – the Purkinje or P-cell. Almost mimicking the tissue formation of the cerebellum, the P-cells are highly arborized, with around 60,000 dendritic spines and being 20-30 times longer than a common neuron. Each P-cell makes more connections than any other neuron type in the entire CNS.

Interestingly, damage to the cerebellum leads to symptoms on the ipsilateral (same side) as the damage. If you recall from previous Columns, I mentioned how a number of tract systems decussate (cross over) to the opposite side – which is why the right side of the brain controls the left side of the body and vice versa. There

is no real explanation for this in the literature; just one of those anatomical anomalies.

Returning to the main tract of the brainstem, after the pons and medulla is an area known as the midbrain, which is further divided into the tectum, tegmentum and the basilar portion. The midbrain is central to the proper functioning of the senses of hearing and vision, makes adjustments in regards to motor control, and is responsible for maintaining consciousness in sleep/wake cycles as well as temperature regulation.

The tectum has two structures which I’d like to highlight – the inferior and superior colliculus. These two pairs of globular tissue form the basis of hearing and visual reflexes, respectively. Also located within the tectum is the pretectal nucleus, which is responsible for the pupillary reflex (dilation or constriction in response to light).

The tegmentum is an interesting region of nuclei with fairly specific functions, and quite varied. Some form the roots of important cranial nerves (trochlear nucleus and oculomotor nucleus) which control the motor movements of the eyes. The raphe nucleus is involved primarily with the initiation of sleep, and maintaining a level of deep sleep prior to REM-sleep. Malfunction in this region can lead to insomnia or hypersomnia, depending on the problem.

The red nucleus is an evolutionary nucleus which is responsible for the maintenance of general muscle tone

and balance. Also, the ‘reflex’ of moving your arms while walking is a result of the red nucleus – damage here leads to individuals walking with their arms straight (think of that Seinfeld episode... hopefully you get the reference!).

Most importantly within the midbrain is the basal portion. Within this region is an area known as the substantia nigra (black substance). This region (the pars compacta portion) is one of the largest sources of dopamine within the brain, and lesions or loss of cells in this area are associated with Parkinson’s Disorder. Furthermore, there is strong statistical evidence that Parkinsonism did not exist before the industrial revolution, and thus is a result of the cumulative effects of environmental toxins.

The pars reticulata of the substantia nigra is home to the major concentrations of GABA, the inhibitory neurotransmitter, and thus you can infer that it is involved with inhibition of numerous other brain regions. It is hypothesised that generalized seizures may involve this region, as a dysfunction of the GABAergic pars reticulata permits over stimulation of other regions of the brain associated with seizure-like symptoms.

Next issue we’ll look at the thalamus and hypothalamus – the final structures before the cerebral cortex we commonly recognize as the brain.

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Political pondering with Mancini: Can Canada benefit from oil sands?

COLUMN BY MARK MANCINI

One of the most pressing issues in Canadian politics right now is the question of the Alberta oil sands. There has been much made of the oil sands---their economic potential, the environmental questions arising from them, and whether or not they can be sustainably developed. These are all important questions that must be balanced against one another.

However, a more pressing political problem arising out of national economic development projects like this is obvious---can the whole of Canada benefit from a project like this? Can each individual province achieve economic success because of the oil sands?

The Leader of the Official Opposition, Thomas Mulcair, doesn't seem to think so. His much-reported assertion that the oil sands will raise manufacturing costs in Ontario and Quebec made his view clear. If Mulcair is correct, economic development or success by one province will inevitably be met with some payment or negative outcome in another area of the country. To him, it seems, our country is a zero-sum game.

However, Canada has never operated as such. Each province brings a unique flavour to our federation that makes us a very special sort of nation. Very few nations on earth have such varied regional considerations within one geographic entity, but these economic and social considerations make us stronger.

Quebec, for example, is indeed a

distinct society in a united Canada because of its cultural independence. This cultural independence makes Canada a stronger, more unique country, and it has done so throughout our history.

Ontario's economic savvy and manufacturing success wrote the Canadian success story for generations. All Canadians shared in this and, one could argue, shared a better quality of life because of it.

Each province in Canada, while different from one another, contribute to the overall fabric of being Canadian. It is profoundly disturbing, therefore, that Mulcair would malign one area of the country as being overly successful. Alberta's resource development, like Quebec's cultural contributions and Ontario's manufacturing success, make Canada a stronger and more united federation. If one looks at this history of Canada as a nation, Mulcair's act of pitting one part of the country against another is not a particularly adept observation.

Canada operates better when we all feel as if we can share in the special contributions of each province. This is the light in which we should view the Alberta oil sands.
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Opinion: Media missed mark on Christian coverage

BY CHARLES WILSON

Few people knows this but nine years ago, when I first begun my studies at Laurentian University, I had a very different career plan in mind.

My plan was to finish my degree, get out of Laurentian, go to Western for my Masters degree and after be ordained an Anglican Priest. Well the plan to some degree worked out, I did graduate from Laurentian, I did go to Western for a Masters degree, but the last part just wasn't in the cards. Last week we saw the world stop, pause, and talk for a few days about faith, and boy did we get it wrong. I love ceremony and liturgy, but even I got a bit annoyed over the discussions about red shoes and closing doors. The mark was missed by the media.

I find it interesting that in the next week, the world's attention will turn away from the new pope, right while two interesting events in the life of the Christian Church were occurring. On Tuesday in Rome, Pope Francis I will be installed as pope. Across the Justin Welby will be installed as Archbishop of Canterbury. In

a matter of days, two branches of the Christian faith will have key celebrations, marking a new beginning.

Both men are by all accounts simple men. Archbishop Welby told the hiring committee that he had such little experience they would be foolish to name him to the office, whereas one of the first acts of Pope Francis was to check out of his hotel personally and pay his hotel bill.

Both men never intended to be in key roles in the Christian Church. Pope Francis has a Masters Degree in chemistry and seriously considered doctoral studies before joining the Jesuits, whereas Archbishop Welby was a corporate executive before losing a child in a car crash and being ordained as a priest.

Both men also have great challenges ahead of them. In the Anglican Communion, global divisions over the ordination of women and same sex marriages are still present, even in a developed country such as Canada. While in the Roman Church, the disgust of the global clergy sex abuse scandal, the divide of the global church

over liberalization of doctrine and allege corruption within the highest levels of the Pope's civil service (called the Curia) is enough to keep the pope busy for years to come.

But these problems are not the churches which these two men lead, just like white or black smoke will have no affect on the lives of those dying of AIDS in Africa. The stories of the last week make these two men look like little more than relics of past centuries, leaders of an institution which is failing, and is of no relevance to today's world. This is not the work of the institution these men lead, nor is it the faith which these two men have. The churches which these two men lead feed the homeless, provide comfort to the dying, teach children, and provide medicine to the sick.

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New LU vegan club raises donations and awareness

BY RYEN VELDHUIS

New as a club, LU Veg Heads held their second event since their creation nearly a month ago.

Co-founder Josée Cyr, a fourth-year Commerce student, said she got into contact with others after posting on U Mentioned Laurentian. "I figured that there's nothing really like this at Laurentian," she said. "So I would love to try and get a community started."

Before the bake sale, they hosted a potluck and movie night on Mar. 6 at west residence. "It was good; we had a lot of people respond on Facebook," she said.

Those who attended brought vegan and vegetarian dishes along with recipes and watched the documentary Vegucated afterwards.

Cyr felt that the bake sale was a success to the point that she felt that "[they] probably won't last the rest of the day," running out of baked goods.

The proceeds from the bake sale will be going to the Wild at Heart wildlife refuge center in Lively. "They do some really good rehabilitation work with wildlife here in Sudbury," said Cyr.

On Mar. 25, the LU Veg Heads will be hosting a workshop on how to cook "fast, easy and healthy foods" for students to learn. "Easy to go things that [students] can just make really quickly and then take it to go during their exams," she said.

Lastly, they will be doing a food-raiser and potluck to acquire non-perishable foods for the food bank on Apr. 8.

"I just hope that it creates a community, because it's not something that's very known in Sudbury," Cyr said. "A lot of people are very hesitant about it. We're looking to create awareness."
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U of S offers 10-day summer course

BY WILLIE POLL

Living with the Land: Indigenous Knowledge in Theory and Practice is a summer course that takes place in August, running for 10 days.

The course is planned by University of Sudbury professor Michael Hankard, but is run by elders as well. Students reside in a tent, cook together, and attend different teachings and activities. As it enters its second year, additions have been implemented based on the students' opinions as well as the elders who taught the course last year.

"Some of the different programs we have added include ceremony, sweet grass picking teachings, medicine walks and making medicines, a day on meditation and focusing, and many more," Hankard said.

The students must

demonstrate teamwork and a sense of community, according to Hankard.

"One of the things that goes on in a course like this is that there is a building of community that takes place," Hankard said. "Last year we had 20 students, this year probably 25. We have circles every night guided with different questions. What this does is create a sharing circle that reflects on different teachings and understandings that have been given that day, and how it has affected what the students understand about traditional knowledge and their connection with the land. In doing that, it really makes almost a sense of family when you are out there."

The course encourages group discussions that, according to Hankard, promote a sense of equality.

Hankard said the course

provides students with a new outlook on life.

"This kind of busy life we have all stops because you are focusing on the natural time," Hankard said. "When you are out there with natural laws the sunrise determines when you get up and when you sleep. You begin to undergo this transition where you kind of slow down, because whether you think you are or not right now you are under stress from deadlines with school, relationships, a job, and all of these different things. You are in a pretty fast paced life, and when you are just sitting there and all you have to do is be there you'll realize just how fast it really is."

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International students network with professionals

BY LAMBDA STAFF

When Hugo Chen speaks of giving Commerce students a good first impression of Canadian corporate life, he doesn't shy away from the realities.

Chen, Coordinator of the Commerce Program's TPERI partnership, brought twelve international students to the heart of Canada's financial district to observe and interact with banking professionals.

"A lot of people think Bay Street is a fantasy job, so it's important to give students coming from China a realistic impression of the work environment and the Canadian work culture."

The trip to KPMG Tower culminated with students visiting the head office of the Industry and Commercial bank of China (ICBC), as well as an in-depth survey of the Toronto Stock Exchange.

Chen is no stranger to corporate life. After graduating from Laurentian with a degree in Commerce, Chen helped Peter Luk, Dean of the Faculty of Management, to coordinate the TPEI Partnership with CGA partner universities in China.

The "3 +1" program allows students to attend three years of undergraduate studies in China, and then complete

their undergraduate degree at Laurentian. A similar program, the "3+1+1" earns students their Master's of Business Administration with an extra year of study. Other programs allow students without an accounting degree to earn their MBA over a slightly longer timeline.

All programs, according to Dr. Luk, aim to ensure that students are exposed to various aspects of Canadian culture while they are here.

Chen says some students were surprised by their first exposure to Bay Street.

"All of our students have a high standard for education and performance, but many did not have practical experience in a working environment. Probably eighty per cent of the students want to stay in Canada, so this was an opportunity to experience the reality."

Chen sought out the ICBC, since the large Chinese bank has recently made inroads into the Canadian market.

"Not only do the students get a chance to see daily operations at the bank, but they can network with professionals," said Chen. "Find out what their potential employers need, what they look for in a resume, how to ease that transition



Photo supplied

Hugo Chen helped coordinate the TPEI Partnership with CGA partner universities in China.

into Canadian corporate culture."

Christine Li, part of ICBC's Retail Banking Department had similar opportunities as an undergraduate in China. She welcomed the Laurentian group's inaugural visit and said this type of connection provides a platform to link commerce programs with the commercial banking industry.

"If I could provide the students

with one piece of advice," said Li, "it would be this- never mind the low starting point. Insist on what you want and what you want to be."

As for Chen, the bright lights of the big city aren't necessarily going to his head.

"Even though more commercial opportunities exist in Toronto, I like it here in Sudbury. I like the

more casual environment. And I'm looking forward to welcoming more Laurentian students into our program."

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U of S hosts panel on Idle No More

BY WILLIE POLL

The University of Sudbury held the Round Dance Revolution, New Directions in Indigenous Activism, which was a discussion of the Idle No More movement.

The discussion had a series of panelists from different backgrounds. Each interpreted Idle No More differently:

"First of all, I'd like to say that I don't think of Idle No More as an isolated movement, even though it has sort of been branded as that," Bruce Mcombre, a panelist, said. "There are people going against power structures all over the world."

According to Mcombre, "the enemy is not so much the government but rather four categories of people which include the military industrial complex, the agricultural industrial complex, the prison industrial complex, and the banking system itself."

For Kayla Burchess, a third-year student at Laurentian University in the Indigenous

studies program, Idle No More is a personal fight, one that she is fighting for her daughter's future.

"The omnibus Bill C-45 that was put into place is the offender in this case when it leads the way to poisoning mother earth," Burchess said. "I can't imagine my daughter growing up and not being able to do the same things that I did; going out into the bush and having a bonfire, going camping, etc. The omnibus bill affects this, and this will affect us in the long term and my daughter might grow up and never be able to do these things, and that hurts me. I have to remember that she has no choice in this. She can't vote for another 13 years, who is going to be her voice until then?"

Burchess said the lack of education of first nations peoples is another reason Idle No More is important.

"The lack of education of non-aboriginals and aboriginals alike is very

overwhelming," Burchess said. "The elementary and secondary school system does not teach students factual information about first nations peoples. When I was in elementary school, in a class of 30 first nations students, we were taught as though first nations people were extinct. I can't imagine how they must have felt."

Maurice Switzer, a member of the Union of Ontario Indians, said that, although promised they would remain a nation, that has not been the case and many agreements have been broken, and the trust with the government is no longer there.

"If we know we are nations and the government of Canada doesn't treat us like nations, we must talk about what makes a nation," Switzer said. "What constitutes a nation? It's own land. We've had our own land since time and memorial. Nations have their own language; we've had our own language since time and memorial. Nations

have their own systems of justice; we've had our own systems of justice, which other nations are now copying and borrowing from, like sentencing circles.

Switzer said the attention must be fixated on Canada to provide context.

"Let's look at Canada, the people telling us we are not nations," Switzer said. "Did Canada have its own land? Did Canada have its own languages? Did Canada have its own justice system? Did Canada have its own education system? Did Canada have its own system of beliefs? Did Canada have its own people? No. The answer to all of them is no. So who's a nation?"

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